

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINSHA 03062 021906Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01 L-03 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-07 /078 W

-----021912Z 037980 /42

O 021535Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2745

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 3062

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MOPS CG AO

SUBJ: SHABA INVASION: GOZ VIEW OF NIGERIAN MEDIATION EFFORT

REF: LAGOS 3698

1. FONMIN NGUZA GAVE ME FOLLOWING RUNDOWN OF GARBA CONSULATIONS  
AS SEEN FROM HERE:

2. GARBA'S VISIT MAR 30-31 HAD BEEN HIGHLY SATISFACTORY FROM GOZ  
STANDPOINT. GARBA HAD EXPLAINED THAT PRES OBASANJO HAD BECOME IN-  
CREASINGLY ANNOYED WHEN ANGOLANS, HAVING PROMISED TO SEND DELGATION  
TO LAGOS THE PREVIOUS WEEKEND FOLLOWING INITIAL POSITIVE RESPONSE  
TO NIGERIA'S MEDIATION OFFER, DELAYED DAY AFTER DAY ON PRETEXTS OF  
CASTRO'S VISIT AND NGOUABI'S FUNERAL. FINALLY, IN ORDER NOT OT  
LOSE MOMENTUM, OBASANJO HAD SENT GARBA TO KINSHASS MAR 30.  
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PAGE 02 KINSHA 03062 021906Z

3. WHILE HERE, GARBA HAD BEEN GIVEN FULL ACCOUNT OF GOZ'S VIEW OF  
DISPUTE. WHAT GOZ WANTED WAS LUANDA'S AGREEMENT TO SEAL SHABA  
BORDER, WITH NIGERIAN TROOPS ASSURING THAT NO SUPPLIED OR PERSONNEL  
WOULD MOVE ACROSS FRONTIER FROM ANGOLA TO KATANGAN INVADERS.  
MEANWHILE, FAZ WOULD "USE OPPORTUNITY TO RETAKE OCCUPIED TERRITORY."  
SINCE ANGOLANS HAD CLAIMED THAT INVASION WAS ZAIRIAN INTERNAL

MATTER, THEY SHOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY IN REFUSING TO HAVE BORDER SEALED. IF THEY DID REFUSE, IT WOULD BE TATAMOUNT TO ADMITTING THEIR INVOLVMENT. MEANWHILE, GOZ WAS PERFECTLY WILLING TO SIT DOWN WITH ANGOLANS AND DISCUSS FULL RANGE OF ZAIRIAN-ANGOLAN PROBLEMS, AND IT WAS IN THAT CONTEXT THAT NIGERIA HAD PROPOSED MEDIATION TO LUANDA.

4. ACCORDING TO NGUZA, GARBA HAD BEEN SYMPATHETIC TO GOZ'S CONCERNS AND HAD PROMISED TO BE TOUGH WITH ANGOLANS IF NECESSARY TO GET THEM INTO NEGOTIATION. HE HAD GONE ON TO LUANDA MAR 31 WITHOUT INVITATION FROM ANGOLANS. GOZ WOULD GET FULL REPORT OF GARBA'S CONSULTATIONS THERE FROM NIGERIAN AMB TO KINSHASA, WHO ACCOMPANIED GARBA AND WILL RETURN HERE LATER TODAY. (IN VIEW OF THIS, I DID NOT CONVEY TO NGUZA ANY OF SUBSTANCE REFTEL.)

5. I STRESSED TO NGUZA IMPORTANCE WE CONTINUE TO PLACE ON NIGERIAN INITIATIVE AND OUR READINESS TO PLAY HELPFUL SUPPORTIVE ROLE WHEREVER FEASIBLE. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY, NGUZA SAID HE DID NOT THINK IT WAS YET TIME FOR GOZ TO MAKE MAJOR PUBLIC STATEMENT IN FAVOR OF MEDIATION; SUCH STATEMENT MIGHT IMPEDE NIGERIA'S CONTINUING EFFORTS AND WOULD BE INTERPRETED AS WEAKNESS ON GOZ'S PART. NGUZA THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO WAIT UNTIL FAZ IMPROVED ITS MILITARY POSITION IN SHABA, WHICH HE HOPED WOULD HAPPEN IN NEXT WEEK OR SO.

6. COMMENT: NGUZA SEEMS MUCH MORE SATISFIED WITH WHAT HE VIEWS AS NIGERIA'S SYMPATHY, IF NOT SUPPORT (HE CONSIDERS GARBA TO BE "ANTI-COMMUNIST"), THAN HE IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT WORKING WITH ANGOLA TOWARD GENUINE NEGOTIATED SOLUTION. LIKE MOBUTU, NGUZA TENDS TO CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 KINSHA 03062 021906Z

REGARD MEDIATION EFFORT ESSENTIALLY IN CONTEXT OF POLITICAL COMPETITION WITH ANGOLA TO GAIN AFRICAN BACKING. THIS PROBABLY REFLECTS DOUBT THAT ANGOLA IS REALY SERIOUS ABOUT A MEDIATED SETTLEMENT AND A BELIEF THAT THE ISSUE IS MORE LIKELY TO BE DECIDED ON THE GROUND THAN AROUND A TABLE. THIS DOESNOT MEAN, HOWEVER, THE GOZ WILL NOT CONTINUE TO PURSUE MEDIATION TRACK WITH SAME ENERGY (IF NOT CONFIDENCE) THAT IT HAS TO DATE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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